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January 7, 2009

Date of Deposit

Tadashi Horie, Reg. No. 40,437

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative



Signature

January 7, 2009

Date of Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Toshio Mikiya et al.

Appln. No.: 10/520,206

Filed: January 17, 2006

For: FEMALE COUPLING
MEMBER OF A PIPE
COUPLING

Attorney Docket No: 10210/25

Examiner: RIVELL, JOHN A

Art Unit: 3753

Confirmation No.: 5078

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and more particularly in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), Applicants hereby cite the following reference(s):

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS		
DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME
5,148,839	09/22/1992	Kirwan et al.

OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS
German Office Action issued October 8, 2008 in German patent application number 103 92 868.5-24 (with translation)

Applicants are enclosing Form PTO-1449 (one sheet), along with a copy of each listed reference for which a copy is required under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2). Pursuant to the undersigned attorney's obligation and duties under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.98(a)(3) and (c), either English language abstracts, partial translations, or full translations are included for patent documents which are not in English for the express purpose of providing a concise explanation of the references to the Patent and Trademark Office with the opportunity to evaluate the same. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the above reference(s) and entry thereof into the record of this application.

Reference E2 is an Office Action issued in the counterpart German application. Reference E1 was cited in the Office Action. Reference E2 is in German. Applicants are submitting an English translation thereof.

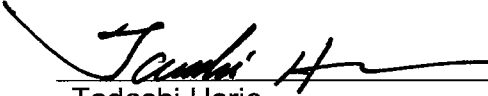
By submitting this Statement, Applicants are attempting to fully comply with the duty of candor and good faith mandated by 37 CFR §1.56. As such, this Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the enclosed references, or other information referred to therein, constitutes "prior art" or is otherwise "material to patentability," as that phrase is defined in 37 CFR §1.56(a).

Applicants certify pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (a copy of any foreign communication first citing a listed reference is attached for the Examiner's reference). Accordingly, Applicants have calculated no fee to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement to a deposit account, as authorized in the Transmittal accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

January 7, 2009

Date


Tadashi Horie
(Reg. No. 40,437)